REMARKS

Claims 1 through 173 are currently pending in the application.

Claims 18 through 173 have been canceled.

This amendment is in response to the final Office Action of February 13, 2007.

Double Patenting Rejection Based on U.S. Patent 6,730,995 and 6,538,311

Claims 1 through 173 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 through 17 of U.S. Patent 6,730,995 and over claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 9, 12, 13, 16-18, 20, 22, 23, 29, 30, 33, and 34 of U.S. Patent 6,538,311. In order to avoid further expenses and time delay, Applicant elects to expedite the prosecution of the present application by filing a terminal disclaimer to obviate the double patenting rejections in compliance with 37 CFR §1.321 (b) and (c). Applicant's filing of the terminal disclaimer should not be construed as acquiescence in the Examiner's double patenting or obviousness-type double patenting rejections. Attached are the terminal disclaimer and accompanying fee.

Applicant requests entry of this amendment for the following reasons:

The amendment is timely filed.

The amendment places the application in condition for allowance.

The amendment does not require any further search or consideration.

Applicant submits that claims 1 through 17 are clearly allowable over the cited prior art.

Applicant requests the allowance of claims 1 through 17 and the case passed for issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Lames R. Dusfin

James R. Duzan

Registration No. 28,393 Attorney for Applicant

TRASKBRITT P.O. Box 2550

Salt Lake City, Utah 84110-2550

Telephone: 801-532-1922

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JRD/dlm:lmh

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